

Wednesday. I made promises, in effect, to Senators PRESSLER and HOLLINGS that we would take it up. I am not certain we will even have five amendments offered. This is a bill the President wants very much. It would seem to me, on the other side, if they have 20 amendments, maybe they would be willing to forgo offering all those on this bill unless they relate to this bill or toughen this bill or somehow strengthen this bill.

It is important legislation, there is no question about it. Nobody knows how important it is any more than the Presiding Officer, Senator INHOFE, and Senator NICKLES, from Oklahoma. We want to look back on it a year from now and say we did the right thing, we just did not do something in the emotion of the moment that might infringe on somebody's constitutional rights a year from now or 10 years from now.

But I think there is basic agreement. As I just listen to the two managers here it seems to me Senator BIDEN and Senator HATCH have a pretty good grip on what they would like to accomplish. Hopefully we will work together tomorrow. Maybe we can get it done tomorrow night, late.

We did not quite get it done on Memorial Day but at least we made the effort. There is no way you can complete it with 97 amendments out there, 67 on that side and 30-some on this side. So we have it down to a total of 20. Maybe some of those are not—I do not say they are not serious amendments—maybe what we call around here, place holders.

It seems to me if we start fairly early tomorrow morning we can complete action on the bill tomorrow night.

Mr. BIDEN. I hope so.

Mr. DOLE. Is that possible?

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I think that is true. Again, I do not think we are going to have trouble finishing the amendments. I think the outcome of the amendments may affect what one or two people on your side or one or two people on my side might end up doing. But my guess there as well is if we finish these amendments we will go to final passage and there will not be much in the way of that. But I cannot make a promise to the leader on that.

Mr. DOLE. Is there anything else to do this evening? Any other amendments that can be dealt with?

Mr. HATCH. I think it is better for us this evening to work on what we are going to do tomorrow, come in early and do our very best to finish this by tomorrow night. I really appreciate the good will on the part of the minority here to work with us and get this done. But I would like to finish it by tomorrow night if we can. If it means getting into the habeas amendments pretty early tomorrow, it means getting into the difficult amendments.

Hopefully, once we resolve those one way or the other, we can move ahead to final passage.

Mrs. BOXER. Will the Senator yield for a question? Shall the Senator be

here prepared at 9:45 to offer the amendment? Can we perhaps incorporate that into a unanimous consent so we can make sure it is the business at hand?

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the first amendment tomorrow be the amendment of the Senator from California, Senator BOXER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank my colleague.

Mr. HATCH. I suggest to my distinguished colleague from California, if she will work with us on the amendment it might not be as difficult as it might be. So I would like to chat with her and see what we can do.

Mrs. BOXER. I will be glad to do that.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXTENDED USE OF MEDICARE SELECTED POLICIES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House on H.R. 483, the Medicare select bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives announcing its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 483) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit Medicare select policies to be offered in all States, and for other purposes, and requesting a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I move the Senate insist on the Senate amendment and agree to a conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses and the Chair be authorized to appoint conferees.

The motion was agreed to; and the Presiding Officer appointed Mr. PACKWOOD, Mr. DOLE, and Mr. MOYNIHAN conferees on the part of the Senate.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to note that this has been cleared with the leadership on the other side of the aisle. I do have a unanimous-consent request now.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session, the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 1045. An Act to amend the Goals 2000: Educate America Act to eliminate the National Education Standards and Improvement Council, and for other purposes.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following reports of committee were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs: Special report entitled "Fourth Interim Report on United States Government Efforts to Combat Fraud and Abuse in the Insurance Industry: Problems in Blue Cross/Blue Shield Plans in West Virginia, Maryland, Washington, DC, New York, and Federal Contracts" (Rept. 104-93).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Governmental Affairs:

Robert F. Rider, of Delaware, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for the term expiring December 8, 2004.

(The above nomination was reported with the recommendation that he be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. DASCHLE:

S. 879. A bill to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to limit acquisition of land on the 39-mile headwaters segment of the Missouri River, Nebraska and South Dakota, designated as recreational river, to acquisition from willing sellers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON:

S. 880. A bill to enhance fairness in compensating owners of patents used by the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 881. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify provisions relating to church pension benefit plans, to modify certain provisions relating to participants in such plans, to reduce the complexity of and to bring workable consistency to the applicable rules, to promote retirement savings and benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PRESSLER (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE):